

REMARKS

The Office of Patent Publication/Publishing Division has required Applicants to resolve an inconsistency between the specification and the drawings. Specifically, Figure 12D is contained in the Drawings but not listed in the Brief Description of the Drawings in the specification. Applicants note that Figure 12D was produced because the formal drawing of Figure 12 has larger type than the originally filed drawing, and thus the formal drawing contains an additional Figure 12D to accommodate the spillover of the text onto an additional page of drawings.

To resolve this inconsistency, Applicants submit this amendment under 37 CFR 1.312. Although 37 CFR 1.312 does not permit an amendment after the payment of the issue fee without withdrawal of the application from issue, effective February 24, 2004, the Office of Patent Publication/Publishing Division has been delegated the authority to waive the requirement of 37 CFR 1.312 and accept an amendment filed after the payment of the issue fee (see MPEP 714.16(d)).

Applicants hereby respectfully request that the Office of Patent Publication/Publishing Division waive the requirement and accept the instant amendment.

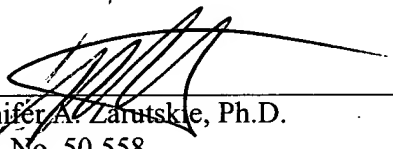
CONCLUSION

If, for any reason, a telephonic conference with the Applicants would be helpful in expediting prosecution of the instant application, please call Applicants' attorney at the telephone number provided below.

Respectfully Submitted,

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